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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05209 120238Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 PA-02 USIA-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /048 W
----------120342Z 030773 /66
R 120200Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6866

UNCLAS TOKYO 5209

FOR OES/APT/SA; INR/OIL

DEPT PASS TO DOC/NBS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, TECH, JA
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPANESE COMPUTER INDUSTRY

1. COMPETITION BETWEEN JAPANESE COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS AND IBM HAS REACHED CRESCENDO WITH RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS BY EACH SIDE OF NEW PRODUCTS AND REDUCTION IN PRICES. ON MARCH 28, IBM JAPAN ANNOUNCED THAT EXTRA-LARGE COMPUTER, IBM 3033 PROCESSOR, WILL BE PUT ON SALE NEXT SPRING. COMPANY CLAIMED NEW PRODUCT HAS HIGHEST LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE AND GREATER COMPUTATION SPEED THAN ITS BEST MODEL NOW ON MARKET, 370-168. VIEW IS PREVALENT HERE THAT LATEST ADDITION TO IBM COMPUTER LINE IS PRELUDE TO NEW-GENERATION OF COMPUTERS KNOWN AS "FUTURE SYSTEM" TO JAPANESE. OUTWARDLY, JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS ARE CALM AT APPEARANCE OF NEW IBM PRODUCT, BUT ARE FEELING THREATENED PARTICULARLY BY SIMULTANEOUS REDUCTION OF IBM PRICES. NEW PRODUCT IS PRICED AT LEVELS 17-27 PER CENT LOWER THAN ITS PREDECESSOR, 370-168.

2. IN CHALLENGE TO IBM, FUJITSU REVEALED MARCH 30 THAT A NEW SUPER-SIZE COMPUTER, M-190 H, WILL BE
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PUT ON MARKET IN SUMMER OF 1978. MACHINE IS CLAIMED TO BE 30 TO 40 PER CENT MORE EFFICIENT THAN IBM'S 3033. MEANWHILE, NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE PUBLIC CORPORATION (NTT) HAS AGREED WITH FOUR JAPANESE COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS TO JOINTLY DEVELOP A NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS CALLED DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORK ARCHITECTURE (DCNA) BY END OF 1977. DCNA SYSTEM

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WITH MAKE POSSIBLE MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF DATA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK BY INTERFACING NUMEROUS DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPUTERS WITH SPECIAL PERIPHERAL AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK CIRCUITS. NTT'S MOVE WILL STIMULATE IBM'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SIMILAR NETWORK OF COMPUTERS, THE JAPANESE INDUSTRY BELIEVES.

3. FUJITSU IS TRYING HARD TO BECOME BETTER EQUIPPED TO COMPETE WITH IBM BOTH IN HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY. FIRM ANNOUNCED RECENTLY A PLAN TO BEGIN MARKETING NEW SOFWARE PROGRAM NEXT JUNE. NEW PROGRAM IS CALLED ADVANCED INFORMATION MANAGER (AIM), A SYSTEM USED FOR ON-LINE DATA BASE. IBM HAS ALREADY DEVELOPED SIMILAR PROGRAM CALLED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IMS), BUT IBM SYSTEM REPORTEDLY IS LESS EFFICIENT THAN NEWLY DEVELOPED FUJITSU SYSTEM. FUJITSU HAS DEVELOPED ITS SOFTWARE SYSTEM WITH OBJECTIVE OF MAXIMIZING PERFORMANCE OF ITS M SERIES COMPUTERS. SINCE M SERIES LACK FUNCTION ENABLING DATA BASE MANAGEMENT AND DATA COMMUNICATION, THEY HAVE BEEN UNDERRATED BY USERS IN COMPARISON TO IBM COMPETITION. NOW THAT FIRM HAS DEVELOPED NEW SOFTWARE SYSTEM TO BACK UP ITS M SERIES HARDWARE, IT IS CONFIDENT OF COMPETING EFFECTIVELY WITH IBM.

4. NTT ANNOUNCED APRIL 6 THAT IT HAS SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED A VERY LARGE SCALE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT (VLSI) MEMORY DEVICE CAPABLE OF STORING 64 KILOBITS OF INFORMATION, FOUR TIMES AS MUCH AS BEST DEVICE CURRENTLY
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AVAILABLE. THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN HINTED AT FOR PAST TWO YEARS. MEMORY DEVICE CONSISTS OF 156,000 ELECTRONIC ELEMENTS PLACED ON A 6X6 MM SILICON CHIP. HOWEVER, EVEN 64 KILOBIT MEMORY DEVICE IS NOT CONSIDERED AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON TO COPE WITH IBM OR TI BECAUSE NEWLY DEVELOPED MEMORY DEVICE IS BASED ON OPTICAL LIGHOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGY INSTEAD OF ELECTRON BEAM OR X-RAY TECHNOLOGY. IMB APPARENTLY USED ELCTRON BEAM LIGHOGRAPHY IN DEVELOPING ITS OWN VLSI ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: TOKYO
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2827347
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPANESE COMPUTER INDUSTRY
TAGS: EIND, TECH, JA, US, IBM
To: STATE
Type: TE
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